

Brooklyn Feb. 22. 1838

Dear Sir,

We take the liberty of enclosing to you a specimen of the work of some rascal or rascals which has fallen into our hands; from the good taste displayed in the execution (though very coarsely finished) you might suppose we were concerned in its production; we shall therefore disclaim having any hand in creating it, except so far as the crescent in the edge may be considered a part of the workmanship, which we plead guilty to having executed.

Please accept it as a specimen of an art which is brought to pretty great perfection, but which, strange to say, meets with but poor encouragement in this country, which we suppose is mostly owing to the Monopolising influence of the institution over which you preside.

We think the expression of face in the figure of Liberty is quite an improvement on those which have been made at the mint for these last few years. We have two genuine pieces by us minted in 1827 which we consider very perfect specimens of American coin, and far superior in expression to this counterfeit.

over

This piece is made of "the R-e-e-a-l German Silver," as the Connecticut manufacturers of the metal say, when selling their spurious to the country people who are ignorant in these matters. It is merely a white brass, without a particle of silver in its composition; and any person, even of the most obtuse intellect, would soon to distinguish this metal from silver, in the dark, by its greasy feel, by merely rubbing it a few times, alternately with a piece of silver, between their thumb and fingers; and it is impossible to make this imitation of silver, that shall not have this very distinction quality.

We think if you were to publish a caution to the public, which shall embody the matter of the above sentence, and such other matter as your extensive knowledge and experience may suggest, it would prevent a great deal of the cheating now going on, not only in coin, but in the various other articles which are manufactured of this counterfeit silver.

Very Respectfully Yours.

To
Dr R. M. Patterson }
U. S. Mint }

Woodwards & Hale